



**Southern Regional Office (SRO)
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701**

**Final Minutes of the
Broadway-Pantano Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting - 29th meeting**

May 5, 2004, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway
Tucson, Arizona

E-5460.14.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Judy Burns, Digger Jones, Janet Marcus, Aubrey McMullen, Jackie Olson, Jean Sabo, Walter Schaffer, Cheri Bludau, James Garrett, Ries Lindley

CAB Members Absent: Dolores Fife, Patricia Gehlen, Wanda Ryckman, Ward Wallingford

ADEQ Staff Present: Gretchen Wagenseller, Project Manager; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Lynne Hubbard, Ray Murray, Jerry Fordham, Robert LeBaron, Rosine Gualdoni, Larry Cox, Tom Kimmel

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Judy Burns conducted introductions of CAB members and public participants.

2. Approval of Minutes for 2/25/04

Janet Marcus motioned to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2004, CAB meeting; Walter Schaffer seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

3. Call to the Public

No one wished to comment.

4. Broadway-South Landfill – City of Tucson Comments

Ray Murray, City of Tucson, said Karen Masbruch, deputy director, city Environmental Services, was unable to attend due to illness. He pointed out on a map the location of the Broadway-South Landfill. He said the city has performed some investigations of the contamination at this site. He introduced Jerry Fordham, a URS consultant for the city, to present a historical investigation of the area.

Jerry Fordham outlined the objectives of the investigation, which was to summarize and document all the available historic information pertaining to waste disposal operations at the

former Prudence Landfill and the area where Gollob Park is located. He said the park is now owned by the city. He displayed maps and said aerial photos were examined as part of the research. He said they also researched city, Pima County and ADEQ files. He said the city also has completed a geophysical survey of the area, which helps define where waste was disposed. He said what is now defined as the Broadway-South Landfill was historically operated approximately from 1953 to 1962. It was operated by Pima County and the Pima County Sanitary District #1 on property leased by the Gollob family. Three different agreements existed between the county and the Gollob family. Some of the landfill areas were extended over time.

Jerry Fordham pointed out the areas surveyed on the maps. He said this was not a full disposal area; if there was a hole in the ground, it was filled with debris and covered over. He said sometimes no waste was found when borings were drilled. He presented a map which defined the possible areas of waste disposal during the time the landfill operated and showed what areas they believe the county and the sanitary district were responsible for. He also outlined the history of the development of Gollob Park. He said waste that is under the park was put there before the city owned the park.

The CAB asked questions about how and where waste disposal took place. Jean Sabo asked for a clarification on the Pima County Sanitary District #1 and who is responsible for this entity. Gretchen Wagenseller said it was a waste authority, separate from the county. Jean Sabo then asked if that meant the state would be responsible for the cleanup. Gretchen Wagenseller said she would research this question and bring it back to the next meeting. The CAB discussed the situation of the now defunct sanitary district.

Ray Murray said that the city is going to continue to investigate the area and may install deep extraction wells in the future. Judy Burns asked if debris dumped at the Broadway-South Landfill is contributing to the contamination found at the Broadway-North Landfill. Ray Murray said he believes it is separate; there is no data showing that it is connected, but the groundwater does flow in that direction.

The CAB discussed the possibility of combining both of these sites into the WQARF program. Ray Murray said that Mike Fulton, ADEQ's Superfund Programs Unit Supervisor, addressed the CAB at the last meeting on the status of considering this area for a preliminary site investigation. Ray Murray said a decision had not yet been made by ADEQ to consider this site for WQARF funding.

Ralph Marra, Tucson Water, pointed out the location of active drinking water wells, and two inactive wells south of the landfill would only be used in an emergency due to the possible spread of contamination from operating the wells. He said if the plume of contamination from the Broadway-South Landfill area continues to grow, it could reach these important wells. He said it is best to catch it before it reaches that point. He said Tucson Water looks at the entire aquifer as a resource and believes the contamination should be cleaned up as soon as possible.

Judy Burns asked for an update at the next meeting on ADEQ's decision about the preliminary investigation of the site.

Janet Marcus suggested that the issue of listing the Broadway-South Landfill site on the WQARF Registry be taken to the Mayor and Council for discussion. She said this is where the CAB needs guidance from [city] staff whether it would be more advantageous to have a separate WQARF site listing or whether to combine the sites. She said she does not think the

WQARF Board likes to list new sites, so taking the issue before city Mayor and Council would “create a stir.” She said this might make the state more aggressive in considering this site for cleanup. Walter Schaffer suggested keeping politics out of the issue since the city and the state are already addressing the problem.

Judy Burns cautioned that time was short, and suggested the CAB have a full discussion of the issue at the next meeting in order to hear everyone’s point of view. Jean Sabo said that she feels it is the role of the CAB to respond to this issue. Judy Burns asked her if she wished to write a letter to the WQARF Advisory Board so that the CAB could vote on it at the next meeting.

Janet Marcus said that she thinks the issue should get wider exposure by taking it before the Mayor and Council. She said that a letter could also be written by the CAB to the WQARF Advisory Board. She said that one way of getting things done is by the political process. Water Schaffer said that if it is an issue of funding for the cleanup, that is one thing, but if it is a technical problem, he said to let the group working on it to continue to solve the problems.

Judy Burns suggested that, at the next meeting, ADEQ could report on the progress of the process. Janet Marcus said that the state will look into it much more aggressively if the agency knows it is going before the Mayor and Council. Judy Burns said she sensed a division among the CAB members on the issue. Ries Lindley suggested calling a meeting soon to discuss the issues. Judy Burns asked Gretchen Wagenseller for an update from ADEQ on the process.

Gretchen Wagenseller said that the site is in a pending preliminary investigation stage. She said that only minimal investigations will take place in the site’s present status. She said the Broadway-Pantano WQARF site is now at the end of the investigation stage, and she feels it would be more efficient and cost effective to combine the Broadway-South Landfill into the existing Broadway-Pantano WQARF Site.

Judy Burns suggested writing to the WQARF Advisory Board directly rather than taking the issue to the City Council. The CAB further discussed the course of action.

The CAB asked Lynn Hubbard, Ward 2 Council Aide, present at the meeting, if the issue of the Broadway-South Landfill could be put on the Council agenda. She said she would make the request to Councilmember Carol West that the two sites should be combined.

The CAB discussed what and who should present to the Council. Judy Burns asked for a consensus from the CAB on taking the issue to the Council. The majority agreed that this should be done. Lynn Hubbard said she would get the information from the city Environmental Services staff, write a request, and put it on the Council agenda in approximately two weeks.

5. Site Investigation Update/Q&A

Ray Murray reported that the Western Groundwater Containment System (WGCS) pumped 79 million gallons of water; 354 million gallons since the start up. He said now that they can backwash the system, it can continuously operate. He said he would provide data on the performance of the system at the next meeting.

Gretchen Wagenseller reported on recent water elevation measurements performed near the WGCS. She said when the system was turned on, the water levels in certain wells decreased. She said this is the measurement of the impact that the WGCS is having on the water levels. She described the areas of contamination and said the main purpose of the system is to prevent

further migration of the plume westward. She said the city and ADEQ are discussing installing a well northwest of the WGCS where one is needed to track migration of the plume. She said ADEQ will also be installing additional soil gas monitoring wells at the Broadway-North Landfill. She explained why the Soil Vapor Extraction System was turned off after most of the vapors were extracted from the vadose zone. She said they did detect some rebound in the soil gas monitoring wells when it was restarted for testing. She said the property owner of the landfill area wants to develop or sell the land, but they are letting ADEQ on to the landfill to do work.

Gretchen Wagenseller said that she plans to have the draft Remedial Investigation Report (RI) out for public comment by June 30, which is the end of the fiscal year. She said there will be a notice in the newspaper and copies of the report available for the CAB and public review at various locations. Finally, she reported on the March sampling event and handed out sampling results to the CAB.

6. Tucson Water Presentation

Ralph Marra, chief hydrologist, Tucson Water, displayed a map showing water production wells in relation to the landfill plumes. He said he was glad to hear that ADEQ plans to install another monitor well on the northwest side of the Broadway-Pantano WQARF Site plume.

He described current and possible future ramifications of a long-term drought in the Tucson region. He said Tucson now relies on a significant allocation of Colorado River Water, but if the allocation is reduced due to drought and demand, groundwater will become increasingly important to make up for shortages. If demand increases, some groundwater wells that have been taken out of production may have to be reinstated. He said two wells south of the WQARF site are termed "last on, first off" wells. He expressed concern that these wells might be needed to be reinstated in a dire situation. He discussed the history of the municipal water supply.

He said that it is possible that Tucson will have to use effluent water in the future due to the increased need for water with more people moving into the state. Waste water will eventually be treated and become part of a potable supply. He described different methods of reclaiming water. He said situations that would require use of inactive wells would be drought or a catastrophic failure, such as a major pipeline break and in the long-term, Tucson is going to need to rely on the wells south of the plume because this area is one of the best water sources. He said this which is why it is critical to clean up the contamination from the landfills in the area. CAB members asked questions about treatment facilities and aquifer recharging, and about the importance of containing the plume.

Gretchen Wagenseller explained that the RI report will answer the question about the contamination and how far it has spread, and what the risk is to humans and to the environment. The next phase will be the Feasibility Study will outline what ADEQ proposes to do to clean up the site. She said this report will be completed next year.

7. Other Administrative Business

Judy Burns announced that ADEQ and the City of Tucson won a small projects award from the American Public Works Association, Southern Arizona branch, for the Western Groundwater Containment System. The system competed with several other projects. She said the city, ADEQ staff and contractors attended an awards ceremony on April 7 in Tucson to accept the award.

Judy Burns said she and Ray Murray also received a Public Service Excellence Award--One Community, One Future,--from the city for exemplary efforts in building collaborative partnerships with the community. She said this award, presented by the mayor, was for everyone on the CAB. Walter Schaffer said that he would like to hear a discussion at the next meeting on installing an extraction well at the WQARF site. Gretchen Wagenseller said that could be done.

Eileen Palese mentioned that the Children's Environmental Health Forum was held April 23 in Tucson. She said Judy Burns attended representing the TUSD school district board. She said if any members were interested in future conferences to let her know and she would add them to the mailing list.

8. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next meeting of the Broadway-Pantano CAB will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on July 14, 2004, at Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO, at (520) 628-6712, for meeting information and proposed agenda.

Judy Burns said she and Jim Garrett will write a letter to the WQARF Advisory Board regarding listing the Broadway-South Landfill as a WQARF Site. The CAB discussed the letter and the presentation to the Tucson City Council on this issue.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tapes or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.